

Message Text

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FOR OES/APT

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS: TGEN YO

SUBJECT: US-YUGOSLAV SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION PROGRAM

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAVS FINALLY SEEM TO BE GETTING THE MESSAGE THAT THE USG CONTRIBUTION TO THE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM WILL FALL OFF DRASTICALLY ONCE THE COUNTERPART FUNDS DRY UP ABOUT 1977-1978. HOWEVER, THEY STILL ENTERAIN SOME ILLUSIONS AND MAY MAKE HIGH LEVEL APPROACH TO USG IN FUTURE TO TRY OBTAIN ADDITIONAL FINANCING. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF US-YUGOSLAV SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION FOR INTERNATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION (FAISECTC) LJUBO RELJIC TOLD US THAT THE GOY WAS EAGER TO MAINTAIN BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH THE US AT CURRENT LEVELS. HE BELIEVED THAT GOY WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE HIS SHARE OF THE FUNDING FOR THE JOINT BOARD. HOWEVER, HE REALIZED THAT THE SOURCE OF THE US FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION, THE EXCESS DINARS GENERATED BY THE PL 480 SALES, WOULD SOON BE EXHAUSTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY DOLLAR APPROPRIATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT

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TO BOTAIN. HE SEEMED PHILOSOPHICAL OVER THE PROSPECT OF A SCIENCE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM OPERATING WITH A MUCH SMALLER CENTRAL

FUNDING BEGINNING 1978 AND ACCEPTED OUR EXPLANATION THAT THIS DID NOT REFLECT LACK OF US INTEREST BUT AN END OF THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE OF HAVING EXCESS DINARS. NEVERTHELESS, RELJIC STILL SPOKE HOPEFULLY ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT SOME ADDITIONAL COUNTERPART DINARS MIGHT BE GRANTED. WE REEMPHASIZED THAT IT UNREALISTIC EXPECT ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT, BUT RELJIC NONETHELESS SAID HE BELIEVED SOMETHING WOULD BE WORKED OUT ON A POLITICAL LEVEL TO KEEP US FUNDING AT A SUBSTANTIAL RATE. HE THOUGHT THAT THE ISSUE MIGHT BE TAKEN UP WITH THE USG AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE.

2. COMMENT: ON A SEPARATE OCCASION FAISECTC DIRECTOR FOR COOPERATION WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES, MRS. BOGDANKA BUDISAVLJEVIC, SIMILARLY RECOGNIZED THAT US FUNDING FOR THE BILATERAL PROGRAM WOULD DROP ONCE COUNTERPART FUNDS WERE DEPLETED. NEVERTHELESS, GOY WILL CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT SOMETHING CAN BE WORKED OUT. CLEARLY IT ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO THE CONTINUANCE OF THE BILATERAL PROGRAM NOT ONLY FOR ITS FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCIENCE INSTITUTES OF THE REPUBLICS BUT ALSO FOR ITS POLITICAL VALUE AS A SYMBOL OF US-YUGOSLAV GOOD RELATIONS. SWEITZER

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